

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-7 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite the feature of the cancelled claims that the thickness determining means comprises a circumferentially continuous groove formed in a surface of the rotor or stator and filled with the adhesive, for example the groove 14. This is advantageous in that a circumferentially continuous groove can be formed with great accuracy by machining with a lathe.

The present amendment is believed to render moot all of the rejections other than those of paragraphs 10 and 11 in which Claim 7 was rejected as being obvious over WO 00/14859 in view of U.S. patent 5,939,809 (Mobius '809), or WO '859 in view of US patent publication 20020134252 (Burton).

WO '859 discloses a motor rotor wherein magnets 20 are adhered to the rotor core 10 via an adhesive layer 30. Positioning elements 50 are provided between the rotor core and the magnets to control the thickness of the adhesive layer. Thus there is no circumferentially continuous groove in WO '859. Moreover, while Mobius '809 was cited to suggest providing a continuous groove in WO '859, it is noted that Mobius '809 also has spacers 30, 50 or 60. Thus Mobius '809 could not suggest providing a circumferentially continuous groove in WO '859.

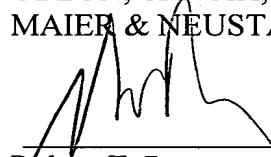
Burton discloses a rotor assembly including permanent magnets 22 mounted to the rotor. However, Burton also provides spacers 40 in the grooves of the rotor, and so could not suggest providing a circumferentially continuous groove in WO '859.

Application No. 10/724,831
Reply to Office Action of August 3, 2005

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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